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This defective method of treatment is doubly to be regretted in the consideration of a subject which is undergoing such rapid development as that of the liability of municipalities for torts. In his small volume Mr. Williams has gathered together, apparently with considerable care, upwards of twenty-two hundred decisions. In many instances these decisions have been tabulated so as to show the trend of the courts of the different states. Eleven general classes of torts are considered and the principles applicable thereto are stated with clearness and considerable attention to detail. There is but slight original investigation, however, and it is to be hoped that the appreciation of the wide range of the subject, which is stated at the outset, will induce the author to utilize the material he has collected, in a more scholarly treatment of this very important branch of the law.

ABBOTT'S TRIAL BRIEF. MODES OF PROVING FACTS. Second Edition. Rochester: The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Company. 1901. pp. xxii, 653.

The first edition of this work issued more than ten years since with the purpose of affording timely aid to the practitioner in the trial of causes, has been found useful for the accomplishment of this purpose, by a large number of trial lawyers.

The arrangement of subjects was strictly alphabetical, as it probably should be for the use for which the book was designed, and the entire plan of the work was one that fitted it for the use of the practitioner rather than the student. This plan has been wisely retained in the present edition which has been prepared "by the publisher's editorial staff" with the view of including important decisions made since the first edition was issued, and of making the work more comprehensive. Some subjects receive consideration which did not appear in the original edition, and others, which did appear therein, are treated more fully and minutely.

Assuming that the citations have been carefully verified, the volume will be of valuable assistance to lawyers who are engaged in the trial of actions.

TWO CENTURIES' GROWTH OF AMERICAN LAW: 1701-1901. By Members of the Faculty of the Yale Law School. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. London: Edward Arnold. 1901. pp. xviii, 538.

This book is one of a series issued under the auspices of Yale University in celebration of her bicentennial. The faculty of the Law School has chosen to make its contribution in the shape of historical sketches of the growth of the more important branches of American law. In no way, from a lawyer's point of view, could the difference between the world in which Yale began and that of to-day have been more strikingly illustrated.

The purpose of the book is thus stated by Judge Baldwin in his introduction: "This volume is an attempt to sketch the progress of American Law; public and private, in the two hundred years from

1701 to 1901 during which Yale College has been growing into Yale University. It is but an out-line sketch. It deals only with a few main heads of a great subject. It is not intended to be technical in its treatment of any of them. If it serves to give the general reader any clearer impressions of what the American people have accomplished through these two centuries in the field of Jurisprudence it will have accomplished all for which its authors hope."

Whether this represents the original plan of the learned authors or is *ex post facto*, it is not our province to enquire. Certain it is they have kept faith with their prospectus. The first count of the reviewer must, therefore, be dismissed; their pretensions do not overtop their achievement. One cannot avoid feeling, however, that "out-line sketches" are not the most enduring form in which to embody their learning. It would have been a better plan, perhaps, to have published an exhaustive study of one subject, and thus to have made an addition to, rather than a mere summary of our legal knowledge. But, be that as it may, the authors have written a very interesting book, which has real value in that it lays emphasis on the too often forgotten fact that our law is not a body of lifeless and unchanging rules but an organism of almost unlimited adaptability and capacity for growth.

The contributors and their subjects are: Constitutional Law, Private Corporations, and Pleadings in Civil Actions, by Judge Simeon E. Baldwin; Patents, Copy-rights, Trade-marks and Unfair Trade, and Admiralty, by Judge William K. Townsend; Real Property, by George E. Beers; Contract, by William F. Foster; Torts, by George D. Watrous; Equity, by Edwin B. Gager; Wills, by Leonard M. Doggett; Municipal Corporations, by Henry Wade Rogers; Evidence, by David Torrance; Criminal Law and Procedure, by James H. Webb, and International Law, by Theodore S. Woolsey.

A TREATISE ON FEDERAL PRACTICE. By Roger Foster. Third edition, revised and enlarged. 2 vols. Chicago: Callaghan & Co. 1901. pp. clxxxv, 799; xi, 799-1535.

Foster's Federal Practice requires no introduction to the legal profession. For ten years it has been well known as the most satisfactory treatise upon the subject. The judicial settlement of many doubtful points in the construction of the "Removal Act" of 1887 and of the "Evarts Act" of 1891, since the publication of the second edition in 1892, justified a new edition and imposed on the author a task which he seems to have performed in an entirely satisfactory manner. The number of citations has been nearly doubled and about one hundred and fifty pages added to the text. By means of condensation and transfers made from the text to notes the amount of new material has been increased considerably beyond that number of pages. The scope and general character of the work remain unchanged except by the addition of a chapter on practice in courts of bankruptcy and by references to leading cases